

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 19320 251945Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /070 W
-----109748 260428Z /64

R 251927Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0681
INFO AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS LONDON 19320

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK
SUBJECT: TORIES HOLD BOURNEMOUTH IN BY-ELECTION

1. YESTERDAY'S BY-ELECTION IN THE SAFE TORY CONSTITUENCY OF BOURNEMOUTH EAST WAS NOT UNEXPECTEDLY WON BY THE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE DAVID ATKINSON, WHO HAD A MARGIN OF 11,551 VOTES, OR 63.4 PERCENT OF THE POLL. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE IN THE TORY MARGIN OF 8.7 PERCENT OVER THE RESULT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN OCTOBER 1974. THE LABOUR CANDIDATE POLLED 3684 VOTES (15.3 PERCENT), PLACING HIM SECOND, WHILE THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE PLACED THIRD WITH 3212 VOTES (13.3 PERCENT). THIS WAS A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN THE LIBERAL VOTE, AND A SETBACK SINCE THEY FINISHED SECOND IN THE OCTOBER 1974 GENERAL ELECTION.

2. COMMENT: FEW CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE RESULT. FOR ONE THING, BOURNEMOUTH EAST HAS BEEN A "SAFE" TORY SEAT FOR MANY YEARS AND, FOR ANOTHER, A SINGLE BY-ELECTION IS RARELY AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF NATIONAL VOTER SENTIMENT. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT WAS THE DECLINE OF LIBERAL PARTY STRENGTH WHICH WILL
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HARSHEN THE ALREADY CRITICAL VOICES OF OPPONENTS OF THE LIB-LAB PACT.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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